

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SSM-03

SAA-01 SES-02 L-03 EUR-12 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2826

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T CAIRO 19347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR EG PORG

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE ON RACISM: ZIONISM/RACISM

- RESOLUTION

REF: (A) CAIRO 19230 (B) STATE 209599 (C) GENEVA 12618

1. ALTHOUGH REF C RAISES QUESTION OF WHETHER APPROACH PROPOSED REF B STILL NEEDED, AMBASSADOR MET TODAY WITH MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. AMBASSADOR OUTLINED HIS EARLIER DEMARCHE TO FONMIN KAMEL AND LATTER'S WILLINGNESS TO INSTRUCT EGYPTIAN DEL AT GENEVA TO OPPOSE

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ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED WE APPRECIATE EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST, BUT ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT PROPOSED EGYPTIAN TACTIC OF WORKING THROUGH ARAB CAUCUS. WE WISH TO SUBMIT FOR GOE CONSIDERATION THAT IT ADOPT A MORE ACTIVE ROLE. AMBASSADOR THEN SUGGESTED PROPOSED APPROACH OUTLINED REF B.

2. GHALI WAS NOT WELL INFORMED ON CURRENT STATE OF PLAY AT GENEVA, BUT NOTED HE HAD REFUSED AMBASSADOR SHAFAI'S INVITATION TO ADDRESS OPENING SESSION OF WORLD CONFERENCE, MAINLY BECAUSE Z/R ISSUE LIKELY TO BE SURFACED. GHALI SAID GOE APPRECIATES POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT OF Z/R RESOLUTION ON PEACE PROCESS AND THEREFORE OPPOSES IT. SHOULD IT COME TO A VOTE, EGYPTIAN DEL WILL EITHER VOTE AGAINST IT OR ABSTAIN IN ORDER TO SHOW DISAPPROVAL. THIS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE BEYOND SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT EGYPT DOES NOT RPT NOT ENDORSE SUCH A RESOLUTION.

3. A MORE ACTIVE EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION ROLE, GHALI OPINED, IS A TOTALLY WRONG APPROACH. HE HAD FOUND AT KHARTOUM OAU MEETING THAT ONLY FOUR AFRICAN STATES HAD OPPOSED Z/R RESOLUTION (ONE WAS IVORY COAST, THE OTHER THREE HE COULD NOT REMEMBER). HE NOTED THAT, QUITE APART FROM ARAB ATTITUDES ON Z/R SUBJECT, AFRICANS AT KHARTOUM HAD DEMONSTRATED DEEP RESENTMENT AT "ALLIANCE" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA. EGYPT CANNOT CHANGE THIS "MAJORITY SENTIMENT".

4. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE SADAT'S NOVEMBER, 1977, TRIP TO JERUSALEM, THE REJECTIONIST/NON-REJECTIONIST POLARIZATION IN THE ARAB WORLD HAS BEEN ACUTE. IF GOE TAKES A POSITION, THE REJECTIONIST STATES BAND TOGETHER AGAINST IT AND ARE DETERMINED TO OPPOSE EGYPT. IF SOMEONE ELSE
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RAISES THE SAME POSITION, HE HAD FOUND THAT THERE IS A BETTER CHANCE OF REDUCING THE OPPOSITION. EGYPT, GHALI SAID, CANNOT SUDDENLY SHIFT FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER AND BEGIN TO CAUCUS WITH CANADIAN, DUTCH AND OTHER ANTI-Z/R STATES. IT MUST MANEUVER WITHIN ARAB CAUCUS AND DO ITS BEST THERE. "YOU AMERICANS," GHALI SAID, "ARE ALWAYS ASKING US TO TAKE POSITIONS WHICH ARE TOTALLY HARMFUL TO OUR OWN INTERESTS." HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT WE SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPT'S PROBLEMS IN THE ARAB, AFRICAN AND NONALIGNED WORLDS OR PERHAPS WE DO NOT CARE.

5. AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THAT WE ARE MINDFUL OF EGYPT'S PROBLEMS AND CARE VERY MUCH THAT GOE'S POSITION IN ARAB, AFRICAN AND NONALIGNED WORLDS NOT BE DAMAGED. WE RECOGNIZE GOE IS BEST JUDGE OF WHAT IS OR IS NOT FEASIBLE. WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT EGYPTIAN DEL WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO WORK AGAINST RESOLUTION.

6. GHALI SAID HE WILL QUERY SHAFAI ABOUT PRESENT STATE OF PLAY AND ON ANY IDEAS SHAFAI MAY HAVE WITH RESPECT TO COUNTERING THE Z/R RESOLUTION. GHALI POINTED STRESSED,

HOWEVER, THAT GOE MUST BE THE JUDGE OF WHAT IT CAN AND
CANNOT DO.

7. COMMENT. AMBASSADOR DID NOT MENTION TEXT OF TWO
ARAB RESOLUTIONS CITED REF C BECAUSE WE HAVE AS YET HAD
NO INDICATION OF DEPT'S REACTION TO THOSE RESOLUTIONS.
PLEASE ADVISE ASAP. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE PER-
TINENT DIALOGUE WITH GHALI AND KAMEL, WHEN LATTER RE-
TURNS, BUT DEPT SHOULD BE AWARE THERE IS A LIMIT TO
HOW FAR THE EGYPTIANS CAN BE PERSUADED TO STICK OUT
THEIR NECKS ON THIS MATTER. EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE (B) APPEARS TO BE INCORRECT.

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